



**FAIRLEIGH
DICKINSON
UNIVERSITY**

A Message from the President

Dear FDU Community Members,

When I first set foot on campus 28 years ago, I had no idea the path that my journey would take and how deeply my life would be connected to this institution. My four years spent as an undergraduate truly transformed my life, and from my very first moments as a student, I knew there was something special about this university. I have been fortunate enough to have seen that very same experience play out in the lives of the many students I've interacted with through my years on campus, and so much of this experience was the result of the people at this institution, past and present, who were committed to seeing our students succeed at all costs. This place has always been about building up students through personal relationships that provide transformational experiences and opportunities.

Much about the world, college and student life has changed since I arrived at FDU as a freshman, but much remains the same. Our current generation of learners come to us with different hopes, dreams, burdens and challenges, but seek the same transformational experience when they set foot on our campuses. It is truly the honor of a lifetime that I have been chosen to lead this institution and it is my commitment in all that I do to carry these hopes, dreams, burdens and challenges alongside our students, providing them the opportunity to write their own story here at FDU — an institution that understands, supports, respects and develops them as they chart the course for their future.

While a great many challenges lie ahead, our institution plays a critically important role in the future of education. While we must, can and will change, I believe that we will do so in a quest to continue to be an institution that provides hope, opportunity and a path toward success for a new generation of students who seek FDU as the place to write their story and realize their dreams. A recent quote I read states that “optimism is a very, very important part of leadership.” I am unapologetically hopeful and optimistic that our institution's best days lie ahead, and it is my distinct honor to set forth on a path forward with you, this amazing FDU family, as we chart a course for the future. I fully believe that together, we can deliver on our institutional promise to provide students the opportunity to seize their moment and change their world. I look forward to taking this journey with each of you and I am excited to see what lies ahead for this wonderful university as we build together.

Michael J. Avaltroni, Ph.D.
President